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1994/04/07

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ACTION EAP-01

INFO LOG-00 ACDA-17 ACDE-00 AID-01 AMAD-01 CIAE-00 C-01
OASY-00 DODE-00 EB-01 HA-09 H-01 TEDE-00 INR-00
IO-16 L-01 ADS-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 OIC-02 PA-01
PRS-01 P-01 SP-00 SR-00 SS-00 STR-01 TRSE-00
USIE-00 RPE-01 /056W

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FM AMEMBASSY BEIJING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9713

INFO AMCONSUL GUANGZHOU

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

IS/FPC/CDR

TRB Date: 1/9/97

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

() RELEASE

() EXCISE

() DENY

() FOIA Exemptions

() PA Exemptions

() DECLASSIFY

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IN PART

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EO Citations

TS authority

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BEIJING 010998

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: PHUM, CH

SUBJECT: WEI JINGSHENG -- AMBASSADOR WEIGHS IN WITH MFA

REF: BEIJING 10637 (AND PREVIOUS)

1. - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY: THE AMBASSADOR EXPRESSED DEEP CONCERN OVER THE CASE OF NOTED DISSIDENT WEI JINGSHENG IN A CONVERSATION WITH MFA DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR MA ZHENGANG ON

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APRIL 7. NOTING THAT THE LACK OF TRANSPARENCY IN THE CASE WAS HEIGHTENING WIDESPREAD INTERNATIONAL CONCERN, THE AMBASSADOR CALLED FOR THE RELEASE OF WEI AND HIS SECRETARY.

END SUMMARY.

3. THE AMBASSADOR EXPRESSED DEEP CONCERN OVER THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT'S CONTINUING DETENTION OF NOTED DISSIDENT WEI JINGSHENG, DURING AN APRIL 7 MEETING WITH MFA AMERICAN AND OCEANIAN DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR MA ZHENGANG (OTHER MATTERS DISCUSSED ARE COVERED IN SEPTELS). EMPHASIZING THAT HE IN NO WAY INTENDED TO INTERFERE IN CHINA'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS, THE AMBASSADOR SOUGHT TO INFORM MA OF THE GREAT CONCERN OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY IN WEI'S STATUS. HE SAID THAT

CHINESE LACK OF TRANSPARENCY IN RELEASING INFORMATION ABOUT WEI'S STATUS, WHEREABOUTS, AND POSSIBLE CHARGES WERE CREATING A VERY NEGATIVE IMPRESSION IN THE UNITED STATES AND ELSEWHERE. WEI IS WIDELY SEEN AS AN INDIVIDUAL BEING HARASSED FOR MERELY EXPRESSING HIS VIEWPOINTS, THE AMBASSADOR REMINDED MA, AND THE FACT THAT CHINESE AUTHORITIES ARE RELUCTANT TO RELEASE INFORMATION ON THE CASE REINFORCES THIS VIEW. IF WEI WAS FACING OTHER CHARGES, IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT THESE BE MADE KNOWN.

4. THE AMBASSADOR NOTED THAT SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER HAD A PERSONAL INTEREST IN WEI'S CASE, AS WEI WAS ONE OF THE DISSIDENTS DETAINED AROUND THE TIME OF HIS MARCH VISIT. HE ALSO CALLED FOR WEI'S RELEASE AND THE RELEASE OF WEI'S SECRETARY, TONG YI, WHO WAS ALSO REPORTED TO BE UNDER DETENTION.

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
*** Current Classification ***